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The second quarter of '25 began with the tariff panic surrounding the President's Liberation Day speech. The imposition of a consumption tax by calling it Liberation Day gave the President's opponents another reason to run in circles with their hair on fire and it gave markets a reason to sell off in dramatic fashion. According to Factset the S&P 500 fell nearly 15% in the first seven days of April. Analysts jettisoned their earnings estimates in the face of the uncertainty. Would the consumer jettison spending and tank the economy? The media threw as much gasoline on the fire as they could find. The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1929 was resurrected and memorialized as the single cause of the Great Depression. No matter that many of the economist now lined up to cheerlead for that idea vilified it when Jude Wanniski' s book _The Way the World Works_ championed the idea in 1980. It was an over-simplification then and now.

The panic ended on April 9th when Trump announced via Truth social that he was extending the deadline for negotiations for 90 days. It turns out reorganizing the international trading system that has emerged since the end of the Second World War is complicated and will not happen quickly. Who knew?

Equity markets have rebounded with strength since the selloff. They currently stand almost 7% higher than they began the year. International markets have outperformed the US for the first time in years. The MSCI EAFE index is up more than twice as much as the S&P 500. Roughly 17% vs 6% according to Factset. That is true for this first 6 months. If we go back to the Covid panic and count from 2020, the US is up over 100% and the MSCI EAFE only about 40%. The European Central Bank is easing rapidly. Their debt burden is higher than ours and their economies are generally more dependent on exports. Perhaps that risk is priced into their markets but I am not convinced.

I have written at length about the concentration of capital in the giant American technology companies. There are, at this writing, 3 American corporations with market values greater than 3 trillion dollars; 8 are over 1 trillion in market value. Hedge fund manager Rob Citrone was interviewed on CNBC in June, and he said that the one day drop in value experienced by the semiconductor company Nvidia in January when the Chinese AI competitor Deep Seek made headlines was equal to twice the value of the entire Mexican stock market. One US company decline "by 2 Mexico's" to use his phrase. This is a staggering discrepancy in value.

In my view, the flow of capital into foreign markets and the recent decline in the dollar are indications of the rest of the world catching up to us and not symptomatic of problems here. Yes, we have too much debt, we spend too much, the geopolitical landscape is fraught with danger and our market is historically expensive. All of this has been true, at least since the pandemic, if not longer. None have proved valid reasons to avoid investing in large American equities. Of course, none of this means that our markets cannot drop again. Global liquidity has been strong for two and half years. That cycle is getting old. Tariff uncertainty has not disappeared nor has the argument over interest rates and inflation.

Despite these near term negatives I remain of the opinion the United States is in the early stages of a new industrial revolution. Artificial Intelligence is only one of the causes. The upgrading of both our electric grid and the telecom infrastructure are also vital for cyber security purposes. Indeed the restructuring of the Defense Department toward a more dynamic and competitive procurement process could also ignite a capital spending boom. The falling cost of satellite communications makes many productivity enhancements possible, and robotics especially AI powered robots, hold out the potential for 24/7 factory automation.

Turbulence and dynamism are two sides of the same coin. There will be winners and losers in all of these areas. With proper risk management we will continue to participate. The momentum factor has dominated other factors for the last few years. While we have benefited from it we remain vigilant for changes that could derail our success. Some aspects of the AI driven investment cycle resemble the internet bubble of 1995 to 2001. Having lived and invested through that difficult period I think it is crucial to be clear eyed and rational about the similarities and the differences in this cycle. At this time, I believe the differences outweigh the similarities, and we are not close to that level of madness and over valuation.

About Our Team

The Good & Hopper Private Client Group brings extensive expertise in Wealth Management Services together with Portfolio Management and institutional capabilities of Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. Our office is located in the Stony Point section of the City of Richmond with close proximity to Henrico, Chesterfield and surrounding counties.

Our Wealth Planning Process

Our process starts with a comprehensive understanding of our client's unique financial situation. We gather all relevant information regarding your goals, concerns, assets, and estate plans. Next, we conduct a thorough analysis into your current financial condition and then provide a detailed wealth plan of action to help you address your goals. Our plan covers areas such as strategic asset allocation, savings rates, debt repayment, retirement income, charitable giving, and wealth transfer. Once a plan of action has been agreed upon we work with you and your other professional advisors every step.

Ward Good, CFA® CIMA®

Senior Director – Investments
Portfolio Manager, OMEGA Portfolio Management

Ward has advised wealthy individuals, endowments and trusts in Virginia for the past 35 years. The cornerstone of his process consists of valuation using discounted cash flow modeling: nevertheless, he believes that models are, at best, only representations of future events. As a result, he also emphasizes judgment based on qualitative factors. Ward manages individual portfolios using a combination of quantitative and qualitative measurement techniques. He is a firm believer that the value of any asset is the discounted present value of its future cash flows. He also believes in the creative destruction process whereby individual entrepreneurs can find ways to make money regardless, sometimes at the expense of entrenched interest. Risk management also plays a vital role in the investment process.

Ward consults each client regularly and continuously seeks to properly match each client's risk tolerance with his or her goals. He monitors all portfolios in an effort to find the proper balance among asset classes and within equity portfolios. His clients' all-equity portfolios contain a mix of stocks selected across capitalization ranges and growth rates, but always with an eye toward the companies' management and their ability to sustain their growth and replace their productive assets.

Before coming to Oppenheimer, Ward served as First Vice President at Scott & Stringfellow as well as at UBS Wealth Management.

He has been active in the Richmond financial community, serving on various not for profit boards. He is currently a Board Member of the Saint Michael's Episcopal School.

A graduate of Hampden-Sydney College, Ward earned a B.A. in English literature. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation from the CFA Institute and received the Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA)® designation from the Investment Management Consulting Association through coursework at the Wharton School of Business, the University of Pennsylvania.

He has four children and, in his spare time, exercise and reading historical fiction.

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John Hopper

Financial Advisor

John Hopper is a Financial Advisor at Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. (Oppenheimer) in the Richmond, Virginia office. John's clients include high-net-worth individuals, families, and their closely-held businesses. With over twenty years of experience, he works closely with CPAs, estate attorneys, business brokers, and others to address each client's unique needs, and prides himself on consistently delivering exceptional service.

He provides a comprehensive approach, which begins with listening to his clients 'needs and goals, and he aligns strategies with their objectives and risk tolerance. John's holistic, goals-based method is essential to the client-advisor relationship, which he deems essential for trust and success. He strongly believes in investing with a purpose to provide practical results. Additionally, John's team approach combines collaboration, knowledge, and adaptable investment strategies.

John graduated from Hampden-Sydney College with degrees in Economics and History. He holds FINRA Series 7 and 66 registrations, and he is licensed for life and health insurance in the state of Virginia. John is also a graduate of Lead Virginia, a renowned leadership program.

Drawing on his previous career as a banker, John is passionate about his service as a Board Member for Peter Paul, a non-profit, after-school enrichment program focused on Richmond's East End families. John is a past president of his college's national alumni association and is also a certified Virginia High School League lacrosse referee. In his spare time, John enjoys golfing, snow skiing, and all things lacrosse. John grew up in the rural Tidewater area of Virginia and resides in Richmond with his wife and three children.

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The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index. Frank Russell Co. ranks the US common stocks from largest to smallest market capitalization at each annual reconstitution period. The Russell 2000 Index represents a very small percentage of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index. It is considered to be generally representative of US Equity Small and Mid Cap performance.

MSCI World ex-US Index (World ex-US): An Index in US dollars based on the share price of companies listed on stock exchanges in 21 developed countries excluding the US. This Index is created by aggregating the 21 different country Indices, all of which are created separately. It is considered to be generally representative of overseas stocks markets.

The NASDAQ-100 Index includes 100 of the largest domestic and international non-financial securities listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market based on market capitalization. The Index reflects companies across major industry groups including computer hardware and software, telecommunications, retail/wholesale trade and biotechnology. It does not contain securities of financial companies including investment companies. The NASDAQ-100 Index is calculated under a modified capitalization-weighted methodology.

Risk Factors: Special Risks of Foreign Securities - Investments in foreign securities are affected by risk factors generally not thought to be present in the US. The factors include, but are not limited to,the following: less public information about issuers of foreign securities and less governmental regulation and supervision over the issuance and trading of securities.

Special Risks of Small and Mid Capitalization Companies may include being: 1) more recently formed than larger companies and may have limited product lines, distribution channels and financial and managerial resources. 2) may not be well known to the investing public 3)may not have significant institutional ownership and 4) may have cyclical, static or moderate growth prospects. 5) often less publicly available information, making it more difficult for the Portfolio Manager to analyze the value of the company.The equity securities of small and mid capitalization companies may be subject to liquidity risk, or narrow trading consequently, the Portfolio Manager may be required to sell these securities over a longer period of time (and potentially at less favorable prices and under volatile conditions)

Special Risks of Fixed Income Securities include risk that the price of these securities will go down as interest rates rise,and credit risk, which is the risk that an issuer of a bond will not be able to make principal and interest payments on time.

Exchange Traded Funds: Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are baskets of securities that are traded like a stock on an exchange, and may come concentrated in various styles or sectors, subject to similar risks that the underlying securities would normally face as individual stocks. . Returns may fluctuate and are subject to volatility Foreign investments have unique and greater risks than domestic investments. All ETFs are passively managed and generally have lower management fees and operating expenses than actively managed funds. ETF returns are adjusted to reflect all actual ongoing ETF fund expenses and assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

INVESTORS SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES, RISKS AND CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF A FUND OR ETF BEFORE INVESTING; THE PROSPECTUS FOR A FUND OR ETF, WHICH MAY BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR, CONTAINS THIS AND OTHER INFORMATION. PLEASE READ THE PROSPECTUS CAREFULLY BEFORE INVESTING.

High Yield Funds: Generally, investments offering potential for higher returns are accompanied by a higher degree of risk. High yield, lower-rated (junk) bonds generally have greater price swings and higher default risks.

The Omega Group is a program through Oppenheimer & Co.Inc. It offers a managed money program in which experienced Financial Advisors act as portfolio managers for their clients. Clients will pay an advisory fee on a quarterly basis and will pay no commissions or additional charges for transactions. Adopting a fee based account program may not be suitable for all investors; anticipated commission costs should be compared with anticipated annual fees. Please refer to the Oppenheimer ADV Part II for information about the advisory program described herein, including program fee schedules and other fees that may apply. The Oppenheimer ADV Part II is available from your Oppenheimer Financial Advisor. Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. and its affiliates does not provide legal or tax advice.

The success of an investment program may be affected by general economic and market conditions, such as interest rates, availability of credit, inflation rates, economic uncertainty, changes in laws and national and international political circumstances. These factors may affect the level and volatility of securities prices and the liquidity of a portfolio's investments.Unexpected volatility or illiquidity could result in losses. Investing in securities is speculative and entails risk. There can be no assurance that the investment objectives will be achieved or that an investment strategy will be successful.

The Standard and Poor's (S&P) 500 Index is an unmanaged index that tracks the performance of 500 widely held, large-capitalization U.S. stocks. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index.

The Relative Strength Index (RSI), developed by J. Welles Wilder, is a momentum oscillator that measures the speed and change of price movements. The RSI oscillates between zero and 100. Traditionally the RSI is considered overbought when above 70 and oversold when below 30. Signals can be generated by looking for divergences and failure swings. RSI can also be used to identify the general trend.

This material is not a recommendation as defined in Regulation Best Interest adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. It is provided to you after you have received Form CRS, Regulation Best Interest disclosure and other materials.